

soul. All the use money can be put to is to purchase comfort and enjoyment in this life; therefore, as you are an enemy to comfort and enjoyment, where is the use in accumulating cash? In a word, why don't you go off somewhere and die, and not be always trying to seduce people into becoming as ornery and unlovable as you are yourselves by your ceaseless and villainous moral statistics.'

"I am convinced that these statistics must have been offered to Mark Twain by some vacation expert. The world cataclysm, which is subsiding, has produced an enormous amount of flotsam and jetsam which some are picking and adding up and presenting as normal statistics. One of the common characteristics of these masquerading Aladdins who are going around offering to exchange new lamps for old is a patronizing air towards the medical profession. It has often been observed that some who use the medical ladder to climb upward, 'once they attain the utmost round then unto the ladder turn their backs.' It requires a level head to preserve proper poise among the dizzy heights," concluded the Doctor.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

There is no use in fighting the inevitable. It is true that the only argument against the north wind is an overcoat. But it is well to be sure the wind is really northern.

Argument seems unnecessary to signalize the importance of the passage by Congress of the Fess bill appropriating the sum of five millions for investigation of influenza and allied disorders. The loss of 500,000 lives in this country alone during the recent epidemic is warrant enough for such need. Determination of the cause of influenza will be followed by the same remarkable results which attended knowledge of the cause and manner of spread of malaria, yellow fever and typhoid. A recrudescence of influenza is to be expected this coming fall. Every public and private health agency should devote itself to this matter and to constructive preparation of a program of action in case of another epidemic.

At present the medical profession is organized on a basis of disease cure rather than disease prevention. This must change at the same time that diagnosis and treatment of special and individual diseases are improving and receiving more and more skilled attention. All public health work pivots on the doctor. He is invariably the one absolutely essential link which cannot be discarded. It is time that the public and the doctor himself recognize this relationship.

Complaints have been received in the State Society office that the State Medical Society roster of members, issued last month, does not contain the names of some doctors who feel that they should have been included. Attention is called to the fact that after March 1st those members of the society whose dues have not been reported to the office of the State Society are delinquent.

Original Articles

TECHNIC FOR THE REMOVAL OF DEAD TEETH.*

By JOSEF NOVITZKY, San Francisco, Cal.

For over five years I have been devoting at least half of each day to laboratory work and investigations in connection with the problems arising from dead teeth. The results of my investigations have repaid me so amply that I have constantly urged other dentists to devote some time to study and experiment, but with no appreciable success. Accounts of my findings have been published repeatedly.¹ These, I thought, would be thankfully received by other dentists who were unwilling or unable to devote any of their own time to independent research.

Instead, they were received at first with violent hostility. Many prominent dentists seemed to resent the fact that my findings did not accord with what had been taught to them and is still being taught to others in dental colleges. My own college offered me no encouragement, and so far as I know encouraged no one to test the truth of my views. One prominent dentist likened my methods to those of the ruthless Hun, but he was prepared to offer no good evidence that my methods were wrong. Opposition was not disappointing. It was stimulating and at times amusing. The disappointing thing was that no one among the thousands who opposed me seemed to be willing to devote a little time in gaining evidence either in favor of or against what I held forth as scientifically proved facts. In matters of fact, capable of clear proof or disproof, I was opposed by unsupported opinions exclusively.

My first encouragement came from Dr. Stanley Stillman to whom I am indebted for the opportunity of witnessing the work at the surgical clinic at the Lane Hospital, San Francisco, 1912. Dr. Stillman's help made it possible for me to acquire the basic surgical knowledge necessary to bridging the gap between surgery and ordinary dental practice.

My first opportunity to work in well-equipped modern laboratories came to me from Leland Stanford Jr. University. To Dr. F. E. Blaisdell, Professor of Surgery in the Medical Department of this university, I am indebted for the photographs of my anatomical work used in this article. To him I am also greatly indebted for invaluable

* Anatomical work done in the Laboratory of Surgical Pathology, Leland Stanford Jr. University.

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